

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2016  
CONTACT: Kimberly Larson, 623-930-2989, Public Information Office

## **GLENDALÉ GAINS JOBS AND DIVERSIFIES ECONOMY** *More Than a Dozen Businesses Bring Several Thousand New Jobs to Glendale in Key Industry Sectors*

**GLENDALÉ, Ariz.** –2016 has started off strong for Glendale from an economic standpoint, with the Office of Economic Development assisting more than a dozen businesses locating, opening new headquarters or expanding operations in the city, with demonstrated growth in four target industries: manufacturing, medical technology, advanced business services and signature retail and entertainment. This small group of companies represent an estimated 3,000 jobs at full build out, with the process of hiring 1,000 of those jobs currently underway.

According to Economic Development Director Brian Friedman “Diversification along the entire spectrum of employment is key to continuing to develop a broader, stronger economy, expanding the labor force and improving quality of life for our citizens.” Earlier this year, both Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s independently upgraded the city’s bond ratings, which are compelling indicators that the city’s economy and financial position have strengthened. Other positive indicators include increases in employment, sales tax collections, and business licenses, as well as an increase in industrial, retail and office occupancy rates.

“Economic Development is clearly one of our top priorities. We have assembled a great team who are working hard to build upon and diversify the city’s economy,” said City Manager Kevin Phelps. “I’m excited to see important clusters like healthcare, business services, technology and manufacturing as well as signature retailers who have chosen to invest in our community. These enterprises are a perfect example of the strategy we will continue to deploy to increase base jobs as well as revenue, and ultimately make Glendale stronger as a community.”

Two new manufacturers are joining Glendale’s line-up of companies. Iron Factory, a small business is relocating from Colorado to Glendale with a one-of-a-kind product. Founded in 1974, the Iron Factory began as the first and only golf club iron refinisher in the US. Supplying more than a million clubs for both professional and

### **Economic Development/Add 1.1.1**

amateur golfers, their exclusive technique perfected the process of repairing, rebuilding and refinishing clubs helping players across the globe improve their game. Canyon State Bus, a new full service dealership just opened their doors in a state-of-the-art, 22,000-square-foot facility supporting new School Bus sales, customizations, parts and service just south of downtown. Canyon State is also the only factory authorized Blue Bird bus dealer in the state.

In the technology and business services category a company founded by a Glendale native, called MobileLogix was designed to solve the problem of predicting field workforce delivery times. The patented technology, software called “SmartField” was voted “Top Mobile Workforce Solution” of 2015 by Field Software Review. MobileLogix serves field service companies in more than 24 countries worldwide, and anticipates nearly 60 employees by the end of its second year. “I grew up in Glendale, Arizona. It was important to me to make a strong impact in the community with an international high-tech company that could attract new jobs to the west side, and change the perception of what this great state has to offer,” said Ron Babich, CEO of MobileLogix. “Planting roots in Glendale means having the rest of the world see the Valley as a true high-tech mecca; from Infusionsoft in Chandler to MobileLogix in Glendale, the Valley is quickly transforming into one of the nation’s hottest tech places to be.”

Credit Union West, also a home grown Glendale enterprise currently located in the Talavi Business Center south of Bell Road, will relocate into an 83,000-square-foot custom corporate headquarters near 99<sup>th</sup> and Glendale avenues in 2018. “We felt that Glendale provided the perfect location to continue our continued expansion. Glendale is where we started and have flourished,” stated President/CEO Bob MacGregor. “We wanted to be part of the growth of Westgate and Glendale’s Sports and Entertainment District. The area is close to many of our members and employees and it seemed to be just the right location for our future needs.” Credit Union West is a \$600-million financial institution serving approximately 58,000 members with 10 branch locations throughout Arizona. In addition, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Arizona Commerce Authority and Glendale’s Office of Economic Development team worked together to welcome Davis Research, a boutique marketing and research firm specializing in the execution of complex research projects, who plans to hire 80 new employees.

Medical technology and healthcare continues to be a robust economic driver in Glendale, especially in the Westgate area surrounding St. Joseph’s Westgate Medical Center. This area is welcoming two new facilities: Rendina, a trusted national leader in healthcare real estate, is building a 62,000-square-foot building, just north of the existing Hospital; and to the south, Dr. Simon renowned for his Simon Imaging facilities, has begun the first phase of

## **Economic Development/Add 2.2.2**

construction of the Westgate Healthcare Campus. When complete the campus will be home to both medical office and medical research and development firms, and is expected to employ 1,500 medical professionals. Both of these new facilities are scheduled to open in the fall of this year.

Finally, signature retail and entertainment investments continue in Glendale with a new Hilton brand hotel under construction adjacent to the Westgate Hampton Inn and Suites. The Home2Suites by Hilton will feature a 127 all-suite property, which brings the total hotel room and suite count to nearly 1,200 within the Glendale Sports and Entertainment District. Another signature brand being welcomed to Glendale for the first time is Living Spaces, with their new location that will occupy the former K-mart building at 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bell Road after undergoing interior and exterior improvements.

The complete list of new businesses facilitated by the Office of Economic Development that have recently opened, or will soon open in Glendale is included as an attachment with this press release. (*See attached Word document – titled ‘Business table for press release.’*)

For additional information on Glendale’s Economic Development Department and programs and services, visit [www.glendaleaz.com/economicdevelopment](http://www.glendaleaz.com/economicdevelopment).

###